

January 3, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Division 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of Section 63.71 Application

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. ("MTA") filed a Section 63.71 Application to Discontinue Service on December 15, 2017. The Application indicated that the Customer Notification Letters had no be sent to affected customers. The letter attached as Exhibit A was close to final, but had not been delivered. MTA sent the attached letter to all customers on December 19, 2017. MTA hereby amends its Application to correctly reflect the notice to customers. The attached letter should replace Exhibit A.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shannon M. Heim

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SMH/keb Enclosure

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## Exhibit A

## **Notification Letter**





## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF MATANUSKA TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION'S FIXED WIRELESS SERVICES

Dear (mail merger name),

We are reaching out to provide advance notice that our fixed wireless service, formally known as retail Basic Exchange Telecommunications Radio Service (BETRS), will be permanently turned down on June 1, 2018. At that time, we will no longer provide MTA phone service through the fixed wireless service. This will affect all MTA BETRS customers (roughly 0.74% of MTA's total customer base) throughout our service area, specifically those customers residing in the Matanuska Susitna Borough and Denali Borough. You can keep your fixed wireless equipment and there will be no charge to you.

Why are we making this change?

The FCC established rules in 1988 for the use of BETRS spectrum (used in fixed wireless) to provide basic, digital, telephone service to subscribers in locations deemed so remote that traditional wireline service or service by other means was not feasible. However, the communications industry has been rapidly evolving and the quality of available cellular/wireless service exceeds your existing fixed wireless service.

Earlier this year, MTA exited the wireless market and sold its assets. Consequently, MTA cannot maintain the fixed wireless service in the future and must inform customers currently purchasing the service that an alternative service provider is now required. We've included a list of alternative options for your reference as you begin to select the service provider that will best meet your needs.

We are proud to have provided BETRS service for more than three decades. As a valued customer, we are offering you a one-time payment of \$400.00 if you transfer your MTA phone service by February 28, 2018.

MTA has notified the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of its proposed discontinuance of service (See DA-17-XXXX). The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Matanuska Telephone Association. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have questions concerning this notice, please contact MTA at 907-745-3211 from the Mat-Su area, or toll free at 800-478-3211 (within Alaska) Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely, MTA Customer Service